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U. S. Department of Agriculture

WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 30

October 3, 1942

ALABAMA (October 1). -- Program to prevent loss of life and property by fire will be carried into every rural community and neighborhood during Fire Prevention Week and be continued afterwards. Rural people will be made aware of fire hazards in farm buildings, woodlands, and fields, by means of all extension methods -- through neighborhood leaders, community meetings, 4-H meetings, news articles, letter, roadside signs, posters, and radio.

To overcome serious labor shortage in Talladega County, all rural and city schools and business houses closed their doors for 1 day, and 12,000 school children, lawyers, doctors, business girls, and others picked cotton at \$1 for 100 pounds. Plan was worked out by county agent and superintendent of schools in cooperation with civic groups.

Figures just released show that from January through August Alabama had 13.1 percent more hens and 21.8 percent higher egg production than in same period last year. Increase results largely from Auburn record-of-performance project, which produced and distributed 13,491 individually wing-banded chicks in 1940-41. In 1936 State had 1 certified flock of 13 birds; in 1941, 323 certified flocks containing 51,564 birds. In 1935, 19 hatcheries, of 118,574 egg capacity, took part in poultry improvement program; in 1942, 92 hatcheries, with 2,855,600 hatching capacity, took part. For 1942-43 season over one-third of hens producing eggs for 92 participating hatcheries will be mated to R.O.P. males.

CONNECTICUT (September 16). -- Connecticut volunteers now organized in 115 out of 169 towns in State; about 2,000 neighborhood leaders named. Goal for neighborhood system is 140 towns; remainder too urban to organize. Next job, farm scrap harvest, will be used to extend organization of volunteers.

Gardening and canning inventory completed after thorough canvass of homes. Volunteers found 8 of every 10 families growing vegetables, 10 percent increase over last year in number of gardens, and half of gardeners producing more vegetables than a year ago. Fresh emphasis being given to laying in new supplies of fall fruits and vegetables for winter. Recommending planning now for 1943 gardens.

Printed letter being sent to neighborhood volunteers through county offices. Series to be numbered but each issue titled differently. May furnish cover so volunteers can keep materials together.

Plans made for farm scrap harvest October 10 to 20. County war boards have named county managers, usually extension agents. Committee formed in each town, consisting of town salvage chairman, agricultural salvage chairman, and chairman of Connecticut Volunteers, will name town manager to be responsible for details. Volunteers will conduct house-to-house canvass for scrap metal and rubber. Town manager will organize collection routes, get trucks and men, and establish scrap depots. Town salvage chairman will arrange for disposal to dealers. Residents will be asked to donate scrap; proceeds to go to local charities.

Emergency labor problem in McIntosh apple harvest being solved by appeals through radio and newspapers to city and town people to volunteer for apple picking. Excellent response from city people, and growers finding green crews willing and useful. Fruit specialist prepared sheet of instructions for inexperienced apple pickers.

Many town and district 4-H exhibits are taking place of county fairs. Larger participation than county exhibits had. Schoolhouses often used. Ribbons furnished by State club office. War stamps for premiums provided by county 4-H fair associations with local and State assistance.

At 4-H baby beef show at Storrs price control act provisions established ceiling, and animals sold for average of 17.6 cents a pound live weight. Champion went for 27 cents, as compared with \$1 a pound at Springfield in recent years.

GEORGIA (September 1). -- County agents working to perfect neighborhood leader system. Leaders giving good response, full cooperation, carrying out programs successfully. Intensive leader-training program being handled by entire State staff. In each district, two-day conferences will be held with county workers on neighborhood leadership training. County workers then will hold training meetings with leaders themselves in counties.

Special information on fall gardens distributed during August. Food processing continuing in unprecedented volume.

Truck survey conducted in farm transportation conservation program reveals 21,925 farm trucks in 137 counties. Of these trucks, 13,021 are available for cooperative hauling for neighbors. Many not available because of specialized use or because farmer needs them for his own full-time use. Survey gives condition of truck and tires, whether good, fair, or poor. Farmers appear to be pooling available transportation and doing their best to conserve.

All home demonstration agents, white and negro, are qualified nutrition instructors for American Red Cross. To date, 8,394 nutrition certificates, 972 canteen certificates, 395 canteen aide certificates have been awarded. Indications are that people are becoming nutrition-conscious and preparing for mass feeding in event of emergency.

Completing series of training schools in clothing for home demonstration agents, 4-H and home demonstration club leaders. Emphasis on care, conservation, renovation. Attention given war needs, decreased supplies of some fabrics, and Federal controls. Simple demonstrations given in hat construction.

Negro agents in all counties assisting U.S.D.A. war boards, Red Cross, Selective Service, and rationing boards. In 28 counties negro agents received activity reports from 531 Victory Volunteer leaders, held 280 neighborhood meetings attended by 3,384 persons. Negro agents and neighborhood leaders giving attention to fall gardens, food preservation, winter legumes, care of farm machinery, war educational program. Many gardening and food preservation demonstrations held and 6 canning plants completed or put into operation. Negro workers giving material assistance in scrap iron and rubber salvage campaigns and in sale of war bonds and stamps.

MONTANA (September 29). -- District conferences held for all extension agents, covering inflation control, livestock feeding and marketing, use of surplus wheat, orderly marketing of increased hog production, progress reports on production in relation to goals for 1942, rural fire control, farm labor, and related war topics.

Exhibit showing efficient production for war effort prepared and sent to major fairs of State and to smaller harvest festivals. Attention being given to preparation of information to guide distribution of 1943 production goals.

Indications point to exceeding State's crop goals for 1942. Conclusions from regional meeting of International Crop Improvement Association indicate considerable reduction in important grain and legume seeds unless their production is emphasized for 1943. Competing crops such as beans, supported by price floors, causing diversion of acreage from long-time seed production. Attention being given to approved and registered seed production. Flax rust causing some loss in eastern Montana.

Emphasis being given swine expansion, wheat feeding, increasing 4-H swine clubs, gilt selection.

Fire-consciousness growing among rural people. Lake County established 21 fire protective districts for rural fire control. In Missoula County, where farms are close to forests, volunteers assisted in control of several forest fires. A fire that spread from farm land to forest was controlled by five wardens from four adjacent communities. In Carbon County, where communications are difficult, a system of signals with rifle shot is used successfully. A fire near a small town there was stopped in time by women with brooms and boys with wet sacks. Meagher County's rural fire organization subdued a number of small fires started by lightning, before serious damage occurred. Rural fire board of Powell County brought about a conviction for negligence in starting fires.

4-H Clubs participating largely in food production, Victory gardens, salvage campaigns. Number of Lake County clubs joined in sending boxes of cookies and cakes to boys in service from their communities.

Solution of farm labor problems is major activity of extension agents. In Missoula County farm labor committee arranged to provide Japanese and Italian labor from concentration camp for farms of area. Wibaux County, with largest wheat, forage, and feed crops in history, took care of labor shortage with local manpower. Neighbors banded together to exchange facilities, particularly in harvest and haying. As result, substantial surplus of hay and feed is available in county.

Radio being used extensively in number of counties. Missoula County's "Farm Clinic" devoted largely to war activities, one program presenting complete outline of agricultural war program.

Agents report much interest in bond sales, civilian defense, Red Cross, first aid, home nursing, nutrition courses.

Program for better truck utilization undertaken in Meagher County. Agent's office is clearing house for information on products to haul and truckers making trips.

WYOMING (September 16). -- County agents promoting scrap harvest campaign through neighborhood leaders. One agent sent letter to all leaders asking them to call on farmers and urge them to gather and send in their scrap iron, and to find out if any needed help in getting large scrap to town. Also sent card to each farmer urging scrap collection. Result was large increase in volume of scrap turned in; carload received each day. General scrap metal harvest featured at fair, with entertainment for rural people and patriotic talk in front of grandstand. Neighborhood leaders enthusiastically pushing scrap iron campaign, fire prevention and control, and other war efforts.

Participated in home economics conference of 11 Western States at Salt Lake City to develop extension wartime program in clothing, farm and home food supply, and nutrition. Wyoming will use regional program as basis of State plans for 1943.

4-H projects being devoted largely to food production and other war activities.

Much emphasis being placed on storing fruits and vegetables for winter, constructing storage cellars, and preparing foods for quick freezing and storage in lockers. Farm families canning and storing foods as never before.